



March 7, 2016

The Honorable Daniel Hawkins, Chairman
Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee
Kansas State House of Representatives
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Walgreens, I am writing in support of HB 2646 to expand pharmacist-administered immunizations.

As you know, current law allows pharmacists to administer, without a prescription, the flu vaccine to patients age six and above, and all other vaccinations with a prescription to patients 18 years of age and older. House Bill 2646 would allow pharmacists to administer all vaccinations without a prescription to patients age six and above.

This legislation is important because it will increase access and convenience for Kansans to important immunizations. Patients will be able to receive immunizations at pharmacies during convenient times and locations that fit their busy lifestyles, without an appointment, while maintaining the critical relationship with a primary care physician.

Although a majority of individuals who receive immunizations do have a primary care physician, many do not. And a pharmacy can play an integral role in those individuals healthcare, and ultimately help bring them into the broader healthcare system, which may include establishing a primary care physician.

Pharmacists can help increase the rate of immunizations, which are important preventative measures to improve patient health and decrease the occurrence of more costly healthcare expenditures.

In summary, pharmacists are trusted and trained professionals who are qualified to administer all vaccinations to patients age six and above. Passage of HB 2646 will lead to increased access to immunizations for Kansan families, contribute to increased immunization rates and lower long-term costs in the healthcare system.

Thanks you and I respectfully ask you to support HB 2646.

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